

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

As an initial matter, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the Interview granted at the United States Patent and Trademark Office on July 26, 2006. Claim 14 has been amended as agreed to in the Examiner Interview. Upon entering this amendment, claims 14-34, and 36-38 will be pending. Support for the amended claim can be found in the as filed specification and drawings. Therefore, no issue of new matter is raised. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the timely allowance of the pending claims as agreed to at the aforementioned interview.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) (1) claims 14, 17-20, 32-34 and 36-38 as being unpatentable over Voldby (U.S. Patent No. 5,584,376) in view of Myron (U.S. Patent No. 4,164,338) and further in view of Mastracci et al. (U.S. 3,524,558)("Mastracci"); and (2) claims 15, 16, and 23-31 as being unpatentable over Voldby, Myron and Mastracci as applied to claim 14, and further in view of McWilliams (U.S. Patent No. 3,885,682). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

In the interests of expediting the prosecution of this application, however, Applicant has amended claim 14, as agreed to in the aforementioned interview. Applicant understands from the Examiner's comments during the interview that the amendment to claim 14 overcomes the outstanding rejections. Specifically, none of the cited references teach or suggest, as required by all the claims, a "ground vehicle for loading and unloading an aircraft having a cargo compartment, said vehicle comprising a chassis supported by wheels, [and] a tiltable ramp pivotally connected to said chassis

...” Thus, independent claim 14, and the claims dependent thereon, are allowable over the cited references and there can be no prima facie case obviousness.

Accordingly, for at least this reason and the reasons of record, Applicant submits that all the claims are patentable over the cited prior art and, therefore, in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

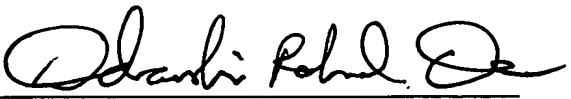
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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